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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: CHAPMAN, Paul William et al.
Serial No.: To be assigned, National Stage Filing based on:
PCT Appl. No. PCT/GB01/01515,
International Publication Number WO 01/74287
Filed: Concurrently herewith Examiner: To be Assigned
Title: INFLATABLE SUPPORT Group Art Unit: To be Assigned
Attorney Docket No.: 3315/31

BOX NON-FEE AMENDMENT
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington, VA 22202

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

This is a preliminary amendment to the U.S. National Phase Patent Application based upon the priority of the above mentioned PCT Application.

Please enter this amendment prior to calculation of the filing fee.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

At Page 1, Line 2, add: --Field of the Invention--;

At Page 1, Line 7, before "In recent years", add: --Background of the Invention--;

At Page 2, Line 19, before "According to the invention", add: --Summary of the Invention--;

At Page 3, Line 20, before "The invention will now ", add: --Brief Description of the Drawings--;

At Page 3, Line 30, add: --Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments--;

On a new page and after Page 7, Line 2, add: --Abstract of the Invention

An alternating pad consisting of transverse inflatable cells (1 and 2) alternately inflated and deflated. An internal cell (5) is provided at the outermost edges of each transverse cell (1,2). The internal cell (5) is constantly inflated at a higher pressure than the traverse cells (1, 2). The internal cell (5) is at a lower height than the cells (1,2) and preferably of a chamfered shape to provide optimum pressure relief across the whole surface of the pad. The internal cell (5) provides stable patient exit, entry or transfer from a bed or seat.--.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims 1-7 to read as follows:

1. An inflatable support for providing pressure relief the inflatable support, comprising at least one inflatable transverse cell extending transversely of the support, each at least one transverse cell having outermost opposite ends and within each said outermost opposite end at least one internal cell at a higher pressure than the transverse cell, the internal cell having a lower height than the transverse cell, such that the whole of the support surface provides pressure relief.

2. The inflatable support of claim 1, comprising a plurality of transverse cells, inflated and deflated alternately.

3. The inflatable support of claim 1, wherein the at least one internal cell is constantly inflated.
4. The inflatable support of claim 1, wherein the at least one internal cell is chamfered at its internal edges.
5. The inflatable support of claim 1, wherein the at least one internal cell is filled with foam material.
6. The inflatable support of claim 1, the at least one internal cell at each opposite end of the transverse cell connected by a common manifold and inflated jointly by that manifold.
7. The inflatable support of claim 6, wherein the manifold is of foam.

REMARKS

This is a preliminary amendment. Applicants have carefully reviewed the application and herein provide the above amendments to conform them more closely to U.S. claiming practice.

CONCLUSION

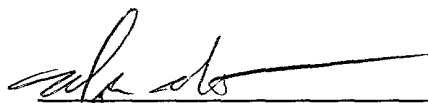
Applicant encloses the rewritten claims in marked-up form pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(c) and the Abstract of the Invention on separate sheets.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee or deficiency, or to credit any overpayment required for entry of this paper, to the undersigned attorney's Deposit Account No. 02-4270.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 30 November 2001



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**REWRITTEN CLAIMS PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.121(c)
SHOWING CLAIMS REWRITTEN IN MARKED-UP FORM**

1. (Amended) An inflatable support for providing pressure relief, the inflatable support comprising at least one inflatable transverse cell extending transversely of the support, each at least [the] one [or more] transverse cell[s] having outermost opposite ends and within each said [of their] outermost opposite end[s,] at least one internal cell[s] at a higher pressure than the transverse cell[(s)], the internal cell[s] having a lower height than the transverse cell[s], such that the whole of the support surface provides pressure relief.

2. (Amended) The [An] inflatable support of [as claimed in] claim 1, comprising [wherein there are provided] a plurality of transverse cells, inflated and deflated alternately.

3. (Amended) The [An] inflatable support of [as claimed in] claim[s] 1[or 2], wherein the at least one internal cell[(s) are] is constantly inflated.

4. (Amended) The [An] inflatable support of [as claimed in] claim[s] 1[, 2 or 3], wherein the at least one internal cell[(s) are] is chamfered at [their] its internal edges.

5. (Amended) The [An] inflatable support of [as claimed in] claim[s] 1[to 4], wherein the at least one internal cell [(s) are] is filled with foam [or similar] material.

6. (Amended) The [An] inflatable support of [as claimed in] claim[s] 1[to 5],
[wherein] the at least one internal cell[(s)] at each opposite end of the transverse cell [are]
connected by a common manifold and inflated jointly by that manifold.

7. (Amended) The [An] inflatable support of [as claimed in] claim 6, wherein the
manifold is of foam.

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